



# The BLUE WAVE

Volume I • Number One • JULY 2005

*For the Cincinnati Police Department officers, civilians, employees, retirees and their respective families.*

Special thanks to the following members of the CPD for gracing the masthead on our premiere issue of "The Blue Wave." From the left they are: Lieutenant Barb Young, District 1, Second Relief; PO Howard Smith, District I, Motorcycle Unit; PO Scott Krauser, District I, Event Planning; PO Jason Bley, District 3, Uniform Patrol; and Clerk-Typist 3 Pat VanArsdale, Personnel.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

98th Police Recruit Class .....	2
Retirements, Promotions .....	3
Awards .....	6
Senior Criminalist "Sid" Caesar .....	8
Cureton Appointment .....	11

## WELCOME TO OUR READERS!

*By Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Cincinnati Chief of Police*



It is a pleasure to present to you the first issue of our new quarterly newsletter, *The Blue Wave*. This publication has been developed to share news of the Cincinnati Police Department with its officers, civilian employees, retirees and all of their respective families.

The idea for re-establishing a CPD newsletter came directly from feedback we received from *you*, the officers and civilian members of the CPD, in a communications effectiveness survey conducted in the fall of 2002. Budget cuts prevented us from initiating this publication earlier.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Robert "Chip" Harrod, Executive Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice, who has obtained private funding from Procter and Gamble Company and Federated Department Stores to underwrite the first two years of this publication's production and distribution. The NCCJ's support and assistance

in helping us to again put a newsletter into place is greatly appreciated, as is the generosity of P&G and Federated.

You may be curious about the newsletter's name, *The Blue Wave*.

As you can see from the masthead, the name has its origins in the CPD logo. But the name also stands for values important to us.

Blue is the color of truth, of integrity, of honor and of patriotism. The phrase "true blue" is more than a catchy rhyme; it is indicative of the ideals Americans ascribe to the color blue.

Although the wave in our logo represents the Ohio River, wave is also a synonym for a signal, a communication.

That is precisely what *The Blue Wave* is for us. It is a means of communicating with our CPD family. It will enable us to share news, celebrate our victories and recognize achievements both on the job and in our private lives.

We hope you enjoy this first issue. We look forward to hearing *your* ideas on information, events or personality profiles you would like to read about in future newsletters. 🦋



Chief Streicher congratulates newly commissioned Officer Addaryl Birch. In the background Officers Joshua Bricker, Daniel Brockmann and Kevin Broering await their turn. (Story on page 2.)

## 98TH POLICE RECRUIT CLASS GRADUATES

June 3 marked the graduation of the 98th Police Recruit Class at the Masonic Hall in downtown Cincinnati. Lieutenant Howard L. Rahtz, Acting Police Academy Director, was master of ceremonies of a service that was both serious and inspiring, as well as marked by touches of good natured humor.

Friends and family gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of 44 men and women who have spent the last 24 weeks in intense study and training in preparation for their careers as police officers. Also present were several members of the Cincinnati City Council.

Cincinnati Mayor Charlie J. Luken expressed his pride in the class and his hope that they remain safe throughout their years of police service. He noted that the introduction of new technology such as tasers was an important part in improving the safety of police work. "Injuries are down 75 to 80 percent for officers and in the high 30 percent for suspects," said Luken.

"You are joining the best police unit in the U.S.," said Luken. "I don't think there is a city in America where the police are more supported, more trusted, more revered than in the City of Cincinnati."

At the conclusion of the mayor's remarks, Chief Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., presented him with a Police Academy Staff golf shirt. Luken, who has announced he is not going to run for another term, joked with the group that "Your chief has been trying to get me to volunteer for a tasing, but I promise you I am going to leave city service without being tased – unless I have a really rough night somewhere!"

City Manager Valerie A. Lemmie expressed her appreciation for the new members of the police force. "We are very proud of you and appreciate you. There is no more important role in the City than to protect and serve . . .



Graduating class of 2005.

you've learned from the best about doing the best. You are on the front line. I am very proud to say welcome as Cincinnati police officer."

Also speaking at the commencement were Chief Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., (see excerpts on pages 4-5), Sgt. Harry C. Roberts, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, and Class Valedictorian Brian R. Tracy.

Tracy began his valedictory speech by noting that June 3 is National Doughnut Day, an announcement that was greeted by laughter. He went on to say "I know I speak for the entire 98th Recruit Class when I say thank you to our families. It is your encouragement and understanding that has enabled us to enter into what French novelist Balzac once referred to as 'the noblest of professions.'"

After the swearing-in ceremony by City Manager Lemmie, Streicher was



Recruit Brian R. Tracy, Class Valedictorian

assisted in the presentation of commissions to the new officers by Sergeants Lisa Crisafi and Bret Isaac. The new officers then proceeded through a reception line of City Council members and

other dignitaries. Heading the line was City Manager Lemmie who greeted each new officer with a hug and personal words of encouragement.

Several awards were presented during the program. Honorees included:

<b>Class President</b> Michelle M. Ball	<b>Class Vice President</b> Jason R. Hesselbrock
<b>Class Treasurer</b> James K. Mitchell	<b>Class Secretary</b> Laisha Gross
<b>Class Valedictorian</b> Brian R. Tracy	<b>Outstanding Student</b> Vickie Goodson
<b>Top Marksmen</b> Timothy K. Watson	<b>Fitness Achievement</b> Brett A. Thomas

Rahtz drew laughter from the crowd several times during the presentations. He noted that "pains me as it does to tell you" the Academy staff had selected as "outstanding student" a class member who is an arson investigator for the Cincinnati Fire Department. He went on to compliment Vickie Goodson on her achievement, saying the award was well deserved.

When "top marksmen" Timothy Watson accidentally kicked a flag stand on his way up to receive his award, Rahtz noted that Watson "can't miss the flag, but he can sure hit a target!" He also told the crowd that earlier in the day "fitness" winner Brett Thomas

had quickly corrected him when Rahtz had cited him for running a mile in 8:40 minutes. "It was 8:30, sir," Thomas had said.

A highlight of the ceremony was the stunning performance by Marcia Caulton of the Country Music Award winning song "I Hope You Dance." Following the program, a video prepared by Officer Governor Williams of highlights of the class's training was shown.

The graduates now begin a year-long probationary period working under the close supervision of field training officers as they learn to apply their classroom training in real life circumstances.

The newly commissioned members of the 98th Police Recruit Class are:

Michelle M. Ball	Jerry W. Hodges
Curtis W. Battle	Darryl J. Jones
Addaryl L. Birch	Chad G. Koeppe
Anthony R. Bischoff	Terry M. Larkin
Corey J. Bonner	John E. Leindecker
Linda M. Borowicz	James K. Mitchell
Mary P. Braun	Howard Moy
Christy S. Brehm	Anthony E. Murphy
Joshua A. Bricker	Jason S. Mussery
Daniel L. Brockmann	Reco J. Napier
Kevin M. Broering	Kevin A. Newman
John I. Brown	Mouhamadou Niang
Travis A. Brown	Karen M. Parker
Andrew J. Burger	Randy E. Phillips
Lesley A. Childress	Heather R. Saidler
Melissa A. Clay	Bryan L. Scott
Daniel Downing	Duanyel D. Taylor
Vickie Goodson	Brett A. Thomas
Lakisha Gross	Brian R. Tracy
Alisha N. Harley	John M. Van Dyne
Karoline E. Harris	Timothy K. Watson
Jason R. Hesselbrock	Robert L. Zeller



## TRANSITIONS

### Retirements

The following people retired between January 1 to June 30. Their years of service are appreciated and they will be missed. We wish them a happy retirement!

#### 33 Years

- Officer Joseph R. Link, District 4

#### 32 Years

- Sergeant Edwin A. Deters, District 4
- Admin. Specialist Theresa A. Williams, Training

#### 30 Years

- Supv. Accountant Alice M. Hocter, Fiscal & Budget
- Sergeant David A. Lovett, District 5
- Clerk Typist 2 Audrey Ates, Records
- Supv. Accountant Alice M. Hocter, Fiscal & Budget
- Sergeant David A. Lovett, District 5

#### 25 Years

- Specialist Donald R. Brichler, Major Offenders Unit
- Officer Richard A. Cohen, Impound Unit
- Officer Karen L. Essell, Major Offenders Unit
- Captain Kathleen A. Howard, Planning
- Sergeant Daniel W. Oliver, District 2
- Specialist Linda A. Petrosky, Financial Crimes Squad
- Officer Elton J. Shaw, Personnel
- Officer Kenneth A. Thamann, Impound Unit
- Specialist Royce E. Winters, Impound Unit

#### 20 Years

- Clerk 3 Axie M. Watkins, District 2

#### 18 Years

- Sergeant Howard A. Pyles, District 2

#### 12 Years

- Specialist David S. Dougherty, Canine Squad

#### 10 Years

- Dispatcher Phyllis L. Fields, Communications
- Criminalist Selma L. Reynolds, Homicide Unit

#### 8 Years

- Officer Christina M. Fogel, District 1
- Officer Justin H. Nickel, Personnel

### New Appointment

We welcome back from active military duty Recruit Chantia M. Pearson who will be in the 99th Recruit Class. She is working at the Police Academy.

### Promotions

Congratulations to the following individuals who received promotions during the first six months of 2005 and best wishes for their success.

#### Sworn Personnel Promotions

- Officer Bryce T. Bezdek to Sergeant
- Sergeant David J. Fink promoted to Lieutenant
- Officer Darren C. Gibson to Sergeant
- Specialist Michael E. Hudepohl to Sergeant
- Specialist Samuel J. Igel to Sergeant
- Sergeant Martin W. Mack promoted to Lieutenant
- Specialist Clifton D. Mitchell to Sergeant
- Officer Jason A. Scott promoted to Specialist
- Specialist Terrance M. Tucker to Sergeant
- Lieutenant Douglas M. Wiesman promoted to Captain

#### Civilian Personnel Promotions

- Ava K. Bolton promoted to Clerk Typist 2
- Frances A. Cihon promoted to Admin. Specialist
- Jennifer S. King promoted to Asst. Operator/Dispatcher
- Gail L. Klumb promoted to Acctg. Technician 3
- Cheryl Makepeace promoted to Clerk Typist 2
- Marilyn Martell promoted to Acctg. Technician 3
- Dustin P. Peet promoted to Asst. Operator/Dispatcher
- Carol J. Shields promoted to Clerk Typist 2
- Lawanna L. Williams promoted to Clerk Typist 2

### *I Hope You Dance*

*I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,  
Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens,  
Promise me that you'll give faith the fighting chance,  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance,  
Dance!.....I hope you dance  
I hope you dance.....I hope you dance!*

From "I Hope You Dance" performed at the graduation ceremony by Marcia Caulton.  
Lyrics by Mark D. Sanders and Tia Sillers.

*continued on back page*



The following text was excerpted from the remarks made by Chief Thomas H. Streicher, Jr. at the June 3 graduation ceremony of the 98th Police Recruit Class.

... **In** a few minutes when they become full fledged police officers . . . [the members of this class of recruits] will immediately have the right to intercede in the lives of citizens in the United States of America. The right to intercede in a person's life! That interception may take the form of depriving that person of . . . property . . . ; it may be depriving that person of freedom; of taking that person into custody because of a situation . . .

If that person does not cooperate . . . [or] in some way resists . . . the officer is authorized to use force, up to and including deadly force if it becomes necessary to accomplish the mission of the police department.

Think about that: up to and including the use of deadly force. That is the challenge and the power and the authority being conferred upon them here in the next 30 minutes. There is no one else in the United States of America that carries with them the same authority, the same power that a police officer does under certain prescribed circumstances. No one, not even the president of the United States, will have the power and the authority that these people will have in a few minutes.

**"Every day I wear this uniform, I will take some action that will improve the quality of life for another citizen in Cincinnati."**

That is a daunting task and responsibility for them to accept. They have to know, understand, and realize that this power and authority is being conferred upon them by you, the citizens of Cincinnati, be you friend, family member or someone they do not know.

All of the citizens of the United States agree to give police officers that power so that we can live in a free society and still be protected from the threats of those who do not choose to obey the laws of a civilized society. That is critically important.

In order for them to be able to . . . [do their jobs, as well as] account back to the citizens, they have to be able to explain . . . and justify their actions. They have to be able to answer exactly two questions: *exactly what* you did and *exactly why* you did it.

In every instant of that explanation they must be prepared to tell the truth even if telling it means saying "I made a mistake and I need to be disciplined for making that mistake."

You must as a police officer accept that challenge if you wish to wear this uniform and carry this badge. You must be able to do that. That is what these people have agreed to do. That is what they agree to do by being in front of you today.

... [Yesterday I asked them] "How do you accomplish that? How do you treat people out in the field when you have contact with them as a citizen?" One of the officers turned around and pointed at the sign on the back of the classroom wall and said "Chief, that is how we do it." And he was right. The sign says across the top "*Professionalism*" and there are three key words on that sign: *Respect, Fairness and Dignity*.

... Each and every one of these officers must treat every single citizen . . . with absolute respect as a citizen. The citizens must feel and believe they

are being treated with fairness. And the citizen must be treated in a way that permits them to maintain their dignity as a human being, no matter how tense the situation may become. That is the challenge of becoming a successful police officer, the absolute, *absolute challenge*.

We told them they must be prepared to come into contact with horrific, graphic violence that is perpetuated upon human beings by other human beings. Those conditions may exist Sunday afternoon or night when they begin their first tour of duty. They have to prepare themselves to see that, prepare themselves to be confronted with the challenge of trying to help people under those conditions. It is a very difficult and daunting task.

... [We tell] each and every class to conduct themselves at all times in both their personal and professional lives in an honorable fashion. They must be loyal and supportive of the oath of office they are about to swear to here.

They must realize that each and every one of their acts . . . has a direct influence on not just themselves as a police officer, but the entire police department . . . on every single Cincinnati police officer. You no longer act as an individual, you act as a *member of an organization* whose conduct must be *above and beyond reproach* and whose conduct must always be held to a *higher standard*.



Probationary Police Officer Lakisha Gross and her field training officer, Officer Matthew Martin, check their patrol car's trunk for appropriate supplies.

### They have agreed to do that.

One final thing they have agreed to do for me is to stand in front of a mirror – and did everybody do that today? Every time you put on the uniform, promise the person you see in the mirror that each and every day I wear this uniform and I enter my tour of duty, I will take some action that will improve the quality of life for another citizen in Cincinnati. I will do something, no matter how small, to make their day a little better.

In this class that is 44 acts of kindness or 44 acts of encouragement or 44 acts that will improve the life of other citizens. Conglomerately as a police agency that is 1,075 sworn officers



Officer Maurice Robinson instructs Probationary Police Officer Michelle Gross on the proper checking of a vehicle's interior prior to leaving the district office.

strong and has approximately another 300 non-sworn that is almost 1400 acts of kindness, acts that are designed to improve other people's lives.

If we can do that collectively as a society, we can be a successful society and we can return ourselves to the greatness that the city of Cincinnati once was known for. I believe that is true and I believe that the acts of these people will contribute to that . . .

I can tell you without hesitation that this is an extremely impressive group. . . They are the people who will determine the future of the organization; they will design the pulse of the organization. They have made a commitment that the thought process and mindset of the agency will continuously



## Recruit classes participate in fitness challenge

Story by Laura Carr • Photographs by Michelle Henry and Vanessa McMillan-Moore

It was a combination of brains and brawn as the Cincinnati Police and Fire and Rescue recruits met on the field of the Police Academy for their annual physical fitness competition. The friendly competition allowed both teams to test their strength and mental fitness by performing individual pull ups and push ups as well as group fitness challenges with a one mile relay and Tug of War. The 107th Fire and Rescue Recruit Class has 24 graduating this year and the 98th Cincinnati Police Recruit Class graduated 44 in June. 🏆



improve because of their continuous efforts to do the right thing. These people are swearing an allegiance to the office and swearing to do the right thing, to be courageous, bold and to *do the right thing*.

I think that is an admirable quality. That is the reason I am extremely proud to stand here before you today and introduce to you the next generation of police officers, the 98th Recruit Class of the Cincinnati Police Department. 🏆



57 hours after they were commissioned, three probationary police officers take part in their first roll call. Sergeant David Corlett checks out the tasers held by (from the left) Officers Chad Koeppel, Mary Braun, and Addaryl Birch.

## POLICE APPRECIATION/ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTED



Standing left to right are Specialist Clifton Mitchell, Officer Terrence Forte, Specialist Jennifer Luke and Officer Jennifer Ernst. Seated is Specialist Michael Hudepohl.

**T**he Hamilton County Law Enforcement Community's Police Appreciation and Achievement Awards were presented on May 19 at the Sharonville Convention Center.

Nine area law enforcement officers were recognized; six of the recipients were members of the CPD. Two area citizens also were given awards, one of whom is the wife of a CPD officer.

### Act of Bravery

In April 2004, *Officer John Mercado* was working on a covert investigation of several suspects for trafficking large amounts of marijuana. When the arrest team moved in, one suspect, who was armed, fled and several agents pursued on foot. The suspect turned his weapon on Mercado who shot him in the leg. The suspect continued to keep his weapon trained on Mercado who shot the suspect two more times after multiple warnings before he was able to take him into custody. Mercado administered first aid to the suspect

until medical help arrived; the suspect subsequently died of his wounds. The rest of the suspects were arrested without incident and successfully prosecuted. Mercado heroically placed himself in harm's way to preserve the safety of his fellow officers and the community.

### Contribution to Law Enforcement

*Specialist Michael Hudepohl* was recognized for his ability to work effectively in a variety of assignments with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. His efforts figured significantly in the investigation of the Tot Lot Posse's violent behavior and drug distribution, resulting in federal indictments of 16 gang members.

### Work with Children

*Officer Terrence Forte* and *Specialist Clifton Mitchell* were acknowledged for their roles in planning, organizing and administering the youth summer camp in partnership with the Dan Beard

Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Mitchell served as camp director and Forte as program director. The camp earned the BSA's highest national accreditation score and dozens of local inner-city youth enjoyed positive interaction with police in a wholesome camping environment.

### Best Overall Investigative Job Leading to Solution of a Crime

*Specialist Jennifer Luke* was recognized for her perseverance and tireless determination in building the case against the man who strangled, stabbed and raped an elderly woman after following her home. Her investigation included work with authorities in Florida, where he was found in custody charged with another murder, and Alabama, where he was a suspect. Luke's assistance led to the man being charged in an Alabama case as well as the Cincinnati case.

### Citizen Award

The wife of Officer Cary Jodice, DARE Unit, was the recipient of a Citizen Award. *Wendy Jodice, RN*, came to the assistance of CPD officer Allison Norton during a physical struggle with a man in the emergency room at University Hospital. Both Jodice and Norton were injured in the struggle. Jodice's actions to assist Norton were heroic.



Wendy Jodice, RN and Officer John Mercado.



## Superior Achievement in Professionalism

This award was conferred on *Officer Jennifer Ernst* for her work in the Special Investigations Squad on cases of illegal possession and trafficking of firearms. Her investigation of a situation in Over-the-Rhine resulted in the arrest of two people on federal gun violations, as well as the confiscation of 75 firearms and \$20,000.

Also recognized were the Greater Cincinnati Ford Dealers and Ford Customer Service Division for their longtime sponsorship of this awards program, as well as their years of support for law enforcement in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Individuals receiving awards who were not affiliated with CPD were:

- *Cpl. Jeffrey Sabers*, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
- *Col. Stephen Moeller*, Chief of Police, City of Bernard
- *PO Christopher Petty*, Harrison Police Department
- *Mr. Brent Martin*, Cincinnati citizen.

## Exchange Club Names Winfrey Officer of the Year

The Exchange Club of Cincinnati presented *Police Officer Dionne Winfrey* their 2005 Police Officer of the Year award at a ceremony on Feb. 9. The presentation highlighted National Crime Prevention Week.

Winfrey, a July 1997 graduate of the 84th Recruit Class, has been working in the Criminal Investigations Section's Personal Crime Unit since 2001. She was the lead investigator in the case of sexual abuse of juveniles by a high profile television personality. She pursued her investigation with sensitivity to the young victims and compassion for their families.

Her hard work and tenacity were essential in the successful prosecution of the case.

## Demasi and Whalen Receive Spirit of Cincinnati Awards

Two CPD captains were among the winners of the "Spirit of Cincinnati" awards presented on February 1 by the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCCVB) in recognition of people whose work captures and communicates what makes the city great.

*Captain Vince Demasi*, Investigations Bureau, was given the Champion Award for his work with the GCCVB to bring a significant convention to the community.

Demasi worked several years putting a great deal of personal time into attracting the 2004 International Crime Stoppers annual conference to Cincinnati. The conference brought over 450 people to the city for an average stay of five days in the late summer of 2004. This brought in significant revenue, as well as helped showcase the city to the visitors.

*Captain James Whalen*, District 1, was presented with the Pinnacle Award for Outstanding Service. The awards honors individuals who set an example for others through excellence of service.

Whalen was recognized for the kindness he showed a person seeking directions to a downtown business. Although Whalen was unfamiliar with the business, he radioed other officers until he located someone who could give the proper directions. The person who nominated him wrote that "His gesture showed me he would have gone out of his way for a visitor to the city to make them feel welcome . . . and that police care about the welfare of people walking in downtown Cincinnati, visitor or not."

## Hamler Named Ohio's School Resource Officer of the Year

The Ohio School Resource Officers Association recognized *Police Officer David Hamler* as the state's School Resource Officer of the Year in a ceremony in Columbus on April 4.

Hamler was nominated for this prestigious award by parents and teachers at Shroder Paideia School in Kennedy Heights. He was recognized for his passion for his job and his competence at working with children, their parents and other family members to effect positive changes in behavior, resolve problems and help keep schoolchildren on the right track.

Hamler has served as an SRO for 27 years.



Police Officers Patrick Galligan and Katrina Neal.

## Galligan and Neal Receive Awards for Valor

*Officer Patrick Galligan* and *Officer Katrina Neal* were recognized on May 4 as part of the Public Service Recognition Week activities.

Galligan received the Ohio Attorney General's Distinguished Law Enforcement Award for Valor for his professionalism and prompt response during an incident in 2004. While driving an unmarked car, Galligan was fired upon. He stopped the car, took cover, radioed for assistance and returned fire, wounding the suspect, who was taken into custody.

Neal received the Hamilton County Police Association's Robert Hovater Award for Valor. In 2004 she was transporting a prisoner who retrieved a weapon he had concealed and began firing at her. Neal left the vehicle and diverted oncoming traffic from danger. When she realized the shots had wounded a bystander, she returned fire and the suspect surrendered.



Story and photography by  
Patricia A. Trubow, APR



## SENIOR CRIMINALIST “SID” CAESAR



For most Cincinnatians, July 3, 2005 was just the day before Independence Day.

But for the CPD family, July 3 marked 50 years of service with the Department for Senior Criminalist Clarence William Caesar. Caesar served 30 years as a police officer, retiring in 1985. He returned as a civilian employee and 20 years later is still hard at work.

Pegged with the nickname of “Sid” when he entered the Police Academy, Caesar notes that when his phone rings “If the caller asks for Clarence, it is official business and the caller doesn’t know me. If they ask for Bill, it is family or an old friend. And if they ask for Sid, it’s police work.”

### 50 Good Men Wanted

Today known as one of the top fingerprint experts in the world, Caesar came into police work by a stroke of fate. “I was in the Coast Guard during the Korean War. When I got out, I had a job waiting as an apprentice die maker. After a year, I knew I didn’t like the inside work. There was an opening over on Spring Grove for a diesel mechanic so I took half-a-day off to apply. When I got there, they had already hired somebody. I was coming back through downtown Cincinnati and saw a police car with a sign that said ‘50 Good Men Wanted. Apply 216 City Hall.’ I was off anyway and thought I might as well apply. The next thing you know, I was one!”

After graduating from the Police Academy, then located on the second floor of the old District 2 station at 314 Broadway, his initial assignment was in the West End

“It was the first time in my life I was ever over there. And we had a 44-hour week, not going to a 40-hour week until 1957.”

After about 15 months Caesar was transferred to District 2 where he spent the next 10 years.

“I was a beat officer and did patrols. And we didn’t get cars with automatic shifts – we all drove stick shifts. What was interesting too, is that we put a call in every hour on the hour at a call box on our beat and also punched in so the could see we were there at that time.

“There were no personal radios, just the one in our car and there was only one radio band for the whole city. Now the federal investigators, every CPD district and other departments as well, they all have their own bands.”

Caesar eventually transferred to the Bureau of Identification (BOI) where fingerprints were made. “This was before the County processed the prisoners, so we ran them, too. We classified the fingerprints using the old Henry System and searched through fingerprint cards to identify who people were. Today fingerprints are stored and classified on computers using the Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).”

After four years with BOI Caesar went onto the Robbery Squad. “We made several cases on fingerprint work. Until that point there had not been that much done on fingerprint work. A lot of scenes weren’t properly done. There have been some cases that have never been solved and may be in part because back then there often was no fingerprint work.”



In 1970, Caesar was put on the Homicide Squad and detailed to the Coroner's office where he was trained in firearms work by Buck Gramke.

Two years later he went back to Homicide and his expertise in fingerprint collection and firearms meant he was called out on every homicide investigation.

"I had a little Concord and put my fingerprint equipment in the back of the trunk. As the years went by, I kept getting more kinds of equipment. The trunk and back seat filled up with that stuff. So then they decided I needed a van."

With the van came even more equipment such as a metal detector, screens for sifting dirt, saws, and a vacuum cleaner for processing car interiors and rooms for hairs and fibers.

"We have two vans now and all kinds of equipment in them. We can test for blood and collect a lot of different types of evidence."

In 1985, Caesar retired from the Homicide Squad with the rank of Specialist. Two weeks later he was back to help form the Criminalistics Unit and do the same things he had been doing with Homicide: use fingerprints and investigative technology to solve crimes.

"We started with seven people and now have ten. Three people retired recently and three new people just started. It takes two years of training before they are expert enough to testify in court. Our team is good, it is well trained, they are experts at what they do and they are dedicated. They are called in at all hours of the night and it is not unusual for someone to work 18 hours straight when a case is being processed. Our sergeant, Rudy Gruenke, is top notch, one of the best I have worked with. Every person in this unit is here because this is where they want to be and I am proud to work with them."

## Palm Prints

Caesar was instrumental in starting the CPD taking palm prints on suspects.

"We had a high profile case with a young woman as the victim. She and her boy friend lived off of Duck Creek Road and had been to a party in their apartment complex. She left the party and told him she'd leave the door unlocked for him. When he came home he found her in the bedroom with her head beat in by a 2-liter Coke bottle. Back then it came in heavy glass bottles.

"We had about 24 print lifts at the scene. We fingerprinted and palm printed everyone in the apartment complex, as well as family members of the victim, the boy friend and other friends, everyone who had been at the place. We eliminated every print but one palm print.

"It had to belong to the suspect because the Coke bottle had been stored below the sink. He leaned down and picked up the Coke bottle and left the palm print right on top of the sink counter."

Retired CPD Captain Don Byrd recalled "I was the lieutenant in charge then of the Homicide Squad. Sid came up with the idea of palm printing arrests. There was some resistance initially because of the extra work, but Chief Myron Leistler issued a directive for palm prints to be made on certain cases."

Caesar said "Every month I'd go down and manually go through the cards looking at all the new palm prints. A year later, I found it. I can *still* see that palm print. I knew what characteristics I was looking for and as soon as I pulled it up, I knew that was it."

While palm prints continue to be taken and stored on cards, they are not put into AFIS due to cost constraints.

"It would take around a million dollars to put the palm prints into the system. A lot of places have their palm prints in AFIS. Dayton, Ohio, has them and they are making a 21 percent hit on palm prints

"If we ever would get all the ones we have made into the system, we could do a lot with them because we have a lot of cases where all we have is a palm print."

## From Small Clues

"Sid is the most dedicated and effective crime scene technician you could hope to have in your unit. He finds things," said Byrd. "There have been some notorious cases in other communities where they have requested him to come out and process their scenes. He is highly respected in the community, the tri-state and further."

Caesar teaches crime scene investigation classes at the Academy. "They like to see slides that show how much you can get from a small area. There were two serial murderers who killed a 15-year-old girl here, and a woman in Norwood. The girl was killed in a gutted vacant building. I show them how we were able to put the two killers in the scene. We found a Michael Jackson button that had a fingerprint on it with 10 points of comparison. Debra Brown, who we later showed to be one of the killers, had never been fingerprinted before so we didn't know who we were looking for. The other, Alton Coleman, had been fingerprinted and we ended up finding multiple prints for him." The police also found the killers had carelessly discarded at the scene belongings they had taken as souvenirs from previous victims including shoe laces and an ID bracelet.

When the two were arrested several days later in Chicago, law enforcement officials from cities all over the country where the two were suspected of killing people, gathered to decide who would prosecute first.

"We had the evidence and had identified the man's prints. I told them we were ready because we knew who we were looking for."

Both suspects were found guilty. Coleman has since been executed. Brown is serving a life sentence in Ohio, plus was sentenced to death in Indiana for other killings.

## New Chemistry Brings Better Prints

New chemical compounds have improved fingerprinting capabilities. Several years ago, photographers were having problems with ninhydrin, a chemical used in processing photographs, marring photographs because the chemical develops the amino acids found in the sweat on fingers. Criminalists began using ninhydrin to develop prints on porous items such as paper and cardboard. Caesar swung open the door of a cabinet to show a rack of paper towels that had been treated with ninhydrin and were developing prints.

"Superglue is another one. You heat it a little bit and in high humidity it develops prints on non-porous items such as glass and ceramics."

Caesar's expertise has been developed through a combination of special seminars, personal experimentation and on-the-job necessity.

"I've gone to a lot of classes and workshops all over. When I was at the Coroner's office, I worked with a chemist and learned a lot from him, plus kept up with my fingerprint work. I ran experiments on different sources for ninhydrin to find the company that made the one that worked the best.

"Buck Gramke taught me how to match bullets to different guns. With measurements, you can predict what gun fired a particular bullet."

Caesar also graduated from the prestigious three week long Advanced Fingerprinting School at the FBI Academy and attended seminars at Quantico.

## Systematic Searches

When he teaches his classes, he emphasizes the importance of a systematic search.

"A lot of times you get only one print that will be the suspect's even though there will be other prints that are picked up. It isn't like on that TV show. You can't stop when you get one good print, but have to see what other ones you get and then eliminate the ones that should be there."

"You have to be systematic in how you investigate a scene. You can't skip around. When we were asked to help out in Norwood at that murder scene, I spent 2-1/2 days in that house. We had assistants making photographs, sketches. First you look for the point of entry. You visualize what the person did, how he went in, where he went. Then slowly you

work yourself around. If you jump around, you will miss something.

"And you need good lighting, not just that little flash-light you see on CSI [the TV show]; you need a big light to see with and that will help you pick up other things you normally would not see, like little spots of blood, hairs or fibers.

"You also have to get your times down so when you go to court maybe six months or more later, you have your notes and facts. You can't go up on the stand and be a dummy and not know the details of what you did. You have to prepare yourself because you are going to be questioned by that defense attorney and there are some pretty good ones out there."

With 38 years of experience studying fingerprints, Caesar is quickly able to point out what is unique about each and every print he sees.

"I have to be convinced about a print and am usually sure if I get five points who the print belongs to. But I have never testified in court with fewer than nine points. I have to be convinced or I am not going to call it."

Caesar is certified as a latent printer examiner by the International Association of Identification (IAI). He was one of the first 24 people in the world to take the IAI's 6-1/2 hour certification test. Only four passed and he was one. Today only 700 people in the world have achieved certification. He is the only one in Cincinnati and one of seven in Ohio.

## Kentucky Fried Chicken

A grin lights Caesar's face as he relates his "KFC" story. "We found a guy with no ID shot on the sidewalk. We identified him though prints and learned he had a car. We put a broadcast out on the car. The Kentucky State Police found the car abandoned on a highway exit about five miles south. The car had a flat and the spare was flat.

"We looked where the car was parked and about 15 feet away found a few beer and whiskey bottles. We brought them in, processed them and found some prints. We had the car towed up and processed it. It didn't have any prints of value, but above the sun visor we found a Kentucky Fried Chicken coupon good for the occupant of a particular address.

"So we found who lived at the address, ran his name, found he had a record and compared his prints to the ones on the bottles and had a match.

"You never know. You just have to be looking for things and check it all out."

Today, new technology continues to improve Caesar's investigations.

"DNA has improved a lot. Used to be you had to have whole blood about the size of a dime before they could do anything with it. Now you just need a trace of it or the root



Sergeant Rudy Cruenke and Senior Criminalist Sid Caesar with one of the CPD's two crime scene investigations vans.



of a hair and they can classify it. They'll give it a number and it goes into state and national files. We had a case that was eight years old when the suspect was picked up down in Kentucky and they were able to match him to the homicide up here.

"But fingerprints to me are still the best. Identical twins or triplets develop from the same egg and will have the identical DNA, but the fingerprints will not be the same."

Each person's unique set of prints develops around the eighth week of gestation. The ridge patterns are determined by the movements of the fetus. The mother's physical activities or an illness can also affect how the ridge patterns develop. These unique patterns develop on the palms of the hands, the soles of the feet and toes as well.



"That's why prints are the best. They are all unique."

## Starting the Second 50

Homicide Sergeant Rudy Gruenke said he has one rule for Caesar. "A running joke from the time I came to Homicide is that he cannot retire until I'm ready to retire. He's my answer man and I can't imagine running Homicide without him. A lot of recruits pattern their careers after his teaching them at the Academy."

As he starts his second 50 years of police work, Caesar has no retirement plans. "As long as I'm healthy, I'll be here. I can't see going home and sitting around." He admitted that planting flowers for his wife is about as close as he comes to a hobby.

Just as fate led him to a police career, fate in the form of his police career led him to his wife, Kay.

"I met her on my beat. She was a secretary at the MGM offices on Central Parkway.

"Now there's your story. She had it hard. She pretty much raised our three sons by herself. When I was on Homicide they called me to work every case and that was 50 to 60 every year for 10 years, plus the suicides. She kept the family going." That family today includes 13 grandchildren.

"But I do enjoy my work. Now, if we could just get the palm prints into AFIS. I'd like to see that in before I leave.

"I would like to have the opportunity to work that myself!"



## CURETON APPOINTED ASSISTANT CHIEF

Captain Michael Cureton was appointed Assistant Chief by City Manager Valerie Lemmie on June 22, filling one of two assistant chief vacancies. He was sworn in before City Council and now holds the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"After an exhaustive search, a diverse team of Cincinnatians found what many of us already knew – that the Cincinnati Police Department trains and develops officers as well as any police department in America," said Mayor Charlie Luken.

Lieutenant Colonel Cureton joined the CPD as a police cadet in 1973. After graduating from the Cincinnati Police



Academy in 1976, he was one of scores of police and hundreds of other city employees who were laid off due to a major city budget cut. He worked briefly at Health Alliance before joining Procter & Gamble, first in security and then in sales.

In 1980, Cureton was recalled by the CPD and assigned to District 4. At various times he has also served in Districts 1, 2, 3 and 5.

He was promoted to specialist in 1986, sergeant in 1989 and lieutenant in 1995.

He was assigned to the Youth Services section in 1996. Because of his expertise in community oriented policing, the U.S. State Department sent him to South Africa to assist their police in organizing similar programs. Promoted to captain in 1998, he served two separate assignments as Night Chief and one in Patrol Administration. In 2002 he was named commander of District 2, where he helped develop the area's first Community Problem Oriented Policing programs.

Cureton earned a bachelor of arts in communications from Xavier University. He graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College in 1999 and from the FBI National Academy Association in 2000. He is certified as an Ohio Peace Officer Basic Training Instructor. President of the Sentinel Police Association from 1986 to 1992, Cureton currently is secretary of the College Hill Urban Redevelopment Corporation and serves on the Kennedy Heights Arts Center Board. He and his wife, Jennifer, have five children.

"Being a police officer represents the ultimate in service to today's society," said Cureton. "We are faced with incredible challenges that keep our jobs interesting and encourage our creativity as problem solvers. To be selected as a peacemaker is an honorable and worthwhile position, a role in which I feel enormous pride."





TRANSITIONS *continued from page 3*

## New Hires/Transfers

The CPD welcomes the following new hires or transfers from other City departments.

- Kimberly Barrier, Clerk Typist 2  
(from Health Dept.)
- Theresa M. Butler,  
Assistant Operator/Dispatcher
- Erica R. Deese,  
Assistant Operator/Dispatcher
- Cheryl Makepeace, Clerk Typist 2  
(from Health Dept.)
- Douglas J. Newland,  
Assistant Operator/Dispatcher
- Paula A Selby, Clerk Typist 1
- Joseph R. Zenni Jr, Emergency Services  
Dispatch Supervisor

## We're looking for...CPD retirees!

Although efforts have been made to keep retirees' contact information accurate, there is a chance some retirees may have been overlooked in this mailing.

If you know a retiree who would like to be added to the mailing list for *The Blue Wave*, please ask them to contact Lt. Tim Sabransky directly. He may be reached as follows:

Lt. Tim Sabransky, Personnel Section  
513-352-2587  
310 Ezzard Charles  
Cincinnati, OH 45214  
Tim.Sabransky@cincinnati-oh.gov



*The Blue Wave* is a quarterly publication by the Cincinnati Police Department for its officers, civilian employees, retirees and their respective families. Production and distribution costs are underwritten by a gift from the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice.

*Chief of Police*

Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr.

*CPD Liaison*

Lieutenant Kurt Byrd, PIO

*Production Supervision*

Hollister, Trubow & Associates

*Editor*

Patricia A. Trubow, APR

*Design*

Barbara Smith, Lamson Design

*Photography*

Rick Adams, Lt. Kurt Byrd,  
Patricia Trubow